

2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in Michigan

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), together with our partners the Michigan Department of Human Services, Volunteer Centers of Michigan, Michigan Campus Compact, The LEAGUE Michigan, the Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan, and the Michigan Association of United Ways, encouraged organizations and individuals to get involved and plan service projects for the 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.



Key highlights of those efforts include:

- 2011 MLK Day projects primarily focused on **education, economic opportunity, supporting veterans and military families, health, clean energy/environmental stewardship, disaster preparedness, and public safety.**
- More than **2,200 citizens** volunteered more than **7,600 hours** via **67 service projects** in Michigan for MLK Day.
- Those volunteers served/impacted more than **8,500 individuals.**

Here is a sampling of Michigan's 2011 MLK Day projects:

Heroes Luncheon Held at Sodt Elementary in Monroe

In honor of the 2011 MLK Day, 58 Sodt Elementary students welcomed shoppers at the mall in Monroe and invited them to make a card or care package for military men and women serving overseas. At the end of the day, more than 90 packages and 100 cards were created in an effort to recognize their courage and contributions.

Arbor Circle Addresses Homelessness

Excel Charter Academy in Grand Rapids held a school wide hygiene supply drive to honor MLK Day, which incorporated various elements to highlight the issue of homelessness. Middle school students discussed homelessness in their homeroom classes and watched this video clip about teen homelessness and also participated in an assembly with Homeless Youth Services program participants.

Developing K.I.D.S. Develops Good Physical Habits

To support a healthy lifestyle, Developing K.I.D.S. in Redford engaged 44 youth in a day of fun, physical activities. Of those who participated, 100 percent stated that they learned ways to play getting physical exercise, 100 percent stated they learned the significance of MLK Day and about historical leaders, 100 percent stated they learned fun ways to practice math, and 100 percent of the volunteers enjoyed their experience and want to stay informed of upcoming volunteer opportunities and events hosted by Developing K.I.D.S.



HandsOn Battle Creek is Anti-Bullying

To remember the legacy left by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and promote his vision of equality, six local middle school students participated in an anti-bullying campaign. Scenario skits were presented by the students to fourth-graders at Urbandale Elementary in Battle Creek. Those fourth-graders then wrote about their experiences to share with the school's first-graders.



Murals through Arts Council of Greater Lansing Inspires All

Eighty-two volunteers gathered together at Black Child and Family Institute in Lansing to create two murals honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. One mural depicted themes from the life of Dr. King while the other depicted his message of nonviolence. The Arts Council of Greater Lansing engaged a variety of area residents in the service project, including several from the local court system.

Great Lakes Center for Youth Development Uses Service-Learning

The Great Lakes Center for Youth Development in the Upper Peninsula engaged members of the North Dickinson County High School student council to lead a service-learning project for fourth graders in their K-12 building on MLK Day. The high school students read to the fourth graders from speeches of Martin Luther King Jr. and worked with them on a writing/art project based on the famous "I have a Dream" speech. The fourth graders wrote and illustrated their own dreams for the community and world.

Heart of West Michigan United Way Engages Youth Volunteers

Next Gen, a program of the Heart of West Michigan United Way, hosted its bi-annual "Hooky Day" on MLK Day to provide young adults with volunteer opportunities that support lasting changes in the West Michigan community. This year's efforts included service at the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home Greenhouse. Volunteers worked to update the greenhouse by cleaning, painting, fixing a water damaged wall, and building new tables and potting benches that accommodate wheelchair use.

Wayne State University Tackles Public Safety

Wayne State University's Center for Urban Studies service day activity consisted of two informational sessions on personal and community safety, offered to residents of the communities served by the AmeriCorps Midtown Urban Safety (AMUS) Project. The topic of the MLK Day sessions was "Target Hardening," which encompasses the behaviors and practices that can make an individual's person, home, and property less vulnerable to crime.



2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Students at Orion Oaks and Pine Tree elementary schools in Lake Orion and patients at Children's Hospital of Michigan created their hand prints with a message of peace and hope. The hand prints were arranged to create the image of a phoenix. The phoenix is a mythical bird with a colorful plumage. At the end of its life, it builds a nest of twigs that is then ignited; both the nest and bird burn and are reduced to ashes, from the ashes a new, young phoenix arises, reborn anew to live again. The phoenix is an image that is symbolic of strength, hope and transformation. The image of the phoenix emerging from the ashes of complete destruction represents strength in overcoming adversity.

Many 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service projects were made possible thanks to the Michigan Community Service Commission, Michigan Nonprofit Association, Volunteer Centers of Michigan, and Michigan Campus Compact. These organizations awarded \$15,000 in mini-grants to Michigan organizations to host service projects as part this year's efforts.

For more information on the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, visit
www.mlkday.gov.